



#### UP AHEAD IN APRIL:

**FULBRIGHT PROGRAM INFO SESSION**  
APRIL 1-15, 2011

**TEA DEADLINE**  
APRIL 4, 2011

**INTERNATIONAL WRITER'S PROGRAM UNIVERSITY OF IOWA**  
DEADLINE APRIL 8, 2011

**IVLP INFO SESSION**  
APRIL 13, 2011

**EARTH DAY** APRIL 22, 2011

Ambassador Merten, Mrs. Florence Elie & Minister of Women's Condition Marjorie Michel



## Women's History Month Specials

**IVLP Leadership Development for Women** Cultural Affairs kicked off Women's History Month by sending 7 outstanding community leaders on an IVLP Program on "*Leadership Development for Women*" **March 5-23, 2011**. These women came from various cities: Berthilde Jean-Louis (Women's Association of the North), Ms. Leopoldine Dalberis (Cité Soleil League of Women), Ms. Raphaëlle Pierre (Radio IBO), Ms. Stéphanie Jean Francois (Foundation for Reproductive Health and Family Education), Ms. Betty Valcin (Youth Civic Action), Ms. Marie Carmelle Dorceus (Foundation "Cultural Center for Children"), and Yolette Gervaise (Haitian Foundation for Environmental Development). They met with counterparts and experts in Miami, Rochester, Washington, Kansas City, and Los Angeles.



**Phelicia Dell**  
**Danielle St. Lot**      **Ann-Valerie Milfort**

**Femme en Democratie** The Federal Women's Committee, the Community Liaison Office, the FSN Committee and the Cultural Affairs joined forces to program Vital Voices' Haiti Chapter **Femmes en Democratie** for a forum on the role of women in Haiti on **March 17** at the U.S. Embassy. Femmes en Democratie's President **Danielle St. Lot**, General Secretary **Ann-Valerie Milfort**, and **Phelicia Dell** shared their strategies for empowering Haitian women to fulfill their true potential in the domains of economic and entrepreneurial opportunity, political participation, and legal human rights.

**Women in Science** On **March 23**, the Cultural Section partnered with Africa Regional Services in Paris for a Digital Video Conference on **Women in Science** with Dr. Monique Wells, an American scientist working in Paris. Dr. Wells shared her love of science, her pursuit of science as a career, and the challenges she experienced along the way. With 60 science and technology students from public and private universities in Port-au-Prince, there were plenty of questions for the guest speaker. Topics included career development, balancing personal and professional priorities, and gender equality in the workplace. We also re-introduced the **Fulbright Science & Technology Program**, an opportunity which has been dormant for many years in Haiti.



**Dr. Monique Wells**

**Women of Courage Share their Courage** Florence Elie was nominated as the 2011 Women of Courage for Haiti. Elie is the Ombudsperson for the **Office of Citizen Protection (OPC)** and is currently serving a 7-year mandate, ending in 2016. She has long been involved in public service and the advocacy for human rights. In honor of **her courage**, Cultural Affairs organized an event for over fifty students at the Ambassador's residence. On **March 31**, **Ambassador Merten** presented the award to Elie, after which she delivered televised remarks. After announcing the **Women of Courage**, other special guest **shared their courage**. We divided the students into four groups which rotated between four workshops each led by other courageous women. The groups were led by the Office of Citizen Protection, Femmes en Democratie, two IVLP alumni from Leadership Development for Women, and lastly a group led by three State Department and USAID officers who focus on gender-based issues. The Information Resource Center displayed books on influential and courageous women in history. Within one hour, the program was a highlight on several local media. All national and Diaspora newspapers featured this program within one day. By breaking down barriers, sharing best practices, and creating opportunities, women can advance in the field on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics and achieve their full potential.

## Cultural & Educational Activities

### **Krik-Krak** Folktale Festival - Les Cayes Akoustik Productions



hosted the first annual Folktale Festival in Les Cayes on March 12-13, the first of its kind outside of Port au Prince. **Krik-Krak** revived this traditional art form and re-engaged Haitians to the charming southern peninsula. The 2-day festival used traditional folktales, including a Creole translation of Edgar Allan Poe's *Chat Noir*, troubadours, and puppeteers to engage with the audience. It kicked off with a Press Conference with **Akoustik's**

Jean-Widler Pierresaint, **FOKAL's** Vanessa Gosciny, and **U.S. Embassy's** Régine René. The festival was a collaborative effort between FOKAL, Alliance Française of Les Cayes, Centre Culturel Pyepoudre, Radyo Tipiti and the U.S. Embassy. All activities were open to the public on the Place d'Armes where over 3000 spectators united to indulge in the cultural richness of Haiti's traditions.



### **Black History Month Essay Contest**

Public Diplomacy received 99 applications from high school students for the March 31 deadline. Prizes included Laptops and English Language instruction. The Awards Ceremony will take place May 20 in the U.S. Embassy's Multi-Purpose Room. Stay tuned for the winners.



A Branch of the YMCA of Greater New York

### **Youth Ambassadors** For the first time, the State Department's Youth Ambassadors Program is coming to Haiti. The **International YMCA** was awarded a grant from Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs to implement the Youth Ambassadors Program in conjunction with the Cultural Affairs Section. The YMCA is a recognized leader in the fields of international educational exchange and youth leadership. Over the next two years, 44 Haitian participants will represent Haiti for structured three-week home stays in the United States. All participants are active community members and are already engaged in volunteer projects for the development of their communities. Participants will implement one major service learning project and a participate in a range of workshops, presentations, discussions, and activities to support the program learning objectives. YMCA and Cultural Affairs have selected the 22 participants for the first trip schedule in August 2011. Stay tuned for more details!

### **Howard and Columbia Universities** On March 16, the Cultural Affairs Section organized a briefing for university students at the Embassy. Over 50 students from Howard University, Columbia University, and both public and private Haitian universities participated in the discussion focused on U.S. economic policies in Haiti from **USAID Director Carleene Dei and Economic and Commercial Chief Gregory Groth**. After an overview from the esteemed presenters, the students asked questions regarding the feasibility of investing in Haiti, investing in Tourism despite the travel warning on the State Department website, U.S. government contributions in Haiti, the government's roles, the import and export of merchandise, and the effect of NGOs on Haiti's economy. The students were then able to engage in more intimate conversations with international counterparts on both economies while identifying the pros and cons of the current situation in Haiti.



## Election results: Michel Martelly was elected president of Haiti



The 2010 Presidential Election season is finally over. Several American officers, including Cultural Attaché Régine René, assisted the Political Section with election monitoring for the first and second round elections. The counting of the ballots continued after sunset at the majority of the voting centers. Featured here together with Security Guard Clebert Michelin, the final count required candles and flashlights at the closing of Lycee Petion-Ville’s Voting Center. AlterPresse stated that according to the CEP, the singer Michel Martelly was elected president of Haiti with 67.57% against 31.74% obtained by his opponent, Mirlande Manigat. Media reported Ambassador Merten saying “What is important for us, and I believe for the Haitian people, is a democratic and peaceful transition between an outgoing president and a new elected president.” The inauguration is scheduled for May 14, 2011. The entire country patiently awaits a peaceful transition.



### IRC Information Resources Center

IRC Director  
Nathalie Gardère

Open Monday to  
Friday

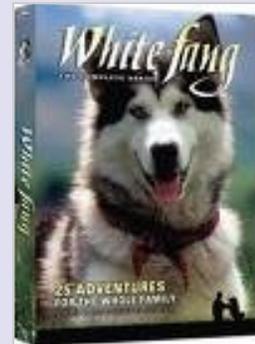
At 8 am to 1 pm

E-mail:

[ircpap@pd.state.gov](mailto:ircpap@pd.state.gov)

Tel: 22298000

The IRC organized and exhibit and a book discussion in anticipation of Earth Day 2011 at the [Harold Courlander American Corner](#). As the guest speaker, Vice-Consul Marjorie Christian engaged with an audience of high school and university students about her life in Alaska, shared pictures and answered insightful questions about the beautiful Alaskan environment. IRC Director Nathalie Gardere then led a lively discussion about the March’s Book of the Month: Jack London’s *White Fang*.



*White Fang* by Jack London

To get more information on Cultural Programs, please email [PAPCulture@state.gov](mailto:PAPCulture@state.gov) and visit our social media pages:

